



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS NAPERVILLE COUPLE FOR SELLING FAKE DESIGNER MERCHANDISE

CHICAGO – A Naperville couple accused of selling counterfeit designer merchandise at trade shows and from their home was arrested last week by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and Naperville Police.

Ali Sheikhani, 51, and his wife Amina Sheikhani, 49, both naturalized U.S. citizens from Pakistan, were arrested May 12 after turning themselves in to authorities at the Naperville Police Department.

As part of a joint investigation, ICE agents and Naperville police detectives executed a federal search warrant at the Sheikhani residence Nov. 23 and seized numerous imposter designer items including handbags, wallets, sunglasses and scarves by Louis Vuitton, Kate Spade, Gucci, Prada, Burberry and Chanel. The seized items have an estimated value of \$250,000. Also seized was \$21,493 in cash.

“Trademark fraud poses a serious threat to the American economy,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE in Chicago. “Trafficking in counterfeit merchandise is a serious criminal offense and ICE will work proactively with law enforcement and private industry to dismantle these criminal schemes.”

Over the course of the nine-month investigation, ICE agents and Naperville police made an undercover purchase of counterfeit handbags from the Sheikhanis and confirmed that the couple was selling counterfeit designer merchandise at trade shows and from their home under the business name Jamali Inc.

The Sheikhanis were indicted March 30 in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court on state violations for trafficking in counterfeit goods. The Will County State Attorney’s office is prosecuting the case. If convicted, the Sheikhani’s face a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of up to \$25,000.

Nationwide, ICE agents made more than 6,500 seizures of counterfeit merchandise with a domestic value of more than \$94 million last year.

ICE has established a toll-free number for the public to report illegal activity, including information about suspected trafficking in counterfeit merchandise. The number, 1-866-DHS-2ICE, is monitored 24 hours a day.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.